

2025 LAKE ERIE INTERCLUB CRUISE

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS / RACING DIVISION / CRUISING DIVISION

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association (US Sailing), and applicable U.S. and Canadian governmental requirements.
- 1.2 The current PHRF-LE class rules shall apply to all yachts in the Racing Division. The Cruising Division will have their PHRF Handicaps assigned by the Organizing Authority. Cruising division boats are not subject to any restrictions other than those specified in SI 1.1 and SI 14. (i.e., spinnakers are allowed).
- 1.3 RRS 63.5(c) shall be replaced by: "If there is a conflict between a rule in the Notice of Race and a rule in the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall apply."

2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice boards. Refer to respective race pages for specific notice board locations.
- 2.2 The race committee intends to use VHF channel 79 to broadcast courtesy information to competitors, including OCS hails and other race information. Failure to broadcast or failure of a boat to hear shall not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

3. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 2200 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed in the vicinity of the host clubhouse/building.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced by 'not less than 1 hour' in the race signal AP.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 Dates of racing:

Saturday	JUNE 28, 2025	ERIE TO PORT DOVER
Sunday	JUNE 29, 2025	LONG POINT BAY COURSE RACE
Monday	JUNE 30, 2025	PORT DOVER TO PORT COLBORNE
Tuesday	JULY 1, 2025	PORT COLBORNE TO BUFFALO
Wednesday	JULY 2, 2025	BUFFALO COURSE RACE

- 5.2 The Racing Division will sail up to five races as defined in the individual course descriptions.
- 5.3 Cruising Division boats may sail any of the five races and will be scored for each individual race. In addition, the Cruising Division will be scored for a separate 2-day race series for Races 1 and 2.
- 5.4 The scheduled time of the warning signal for each class is shown on the individual course descriptions.

2025 LAKE ERIE INTERCLUB CRUISE

6. CLASS FLAGS

6.1 Class flags will be as follows:

Class	Class Flag	Division		Class	Class Flag	Division
A	WHITE	RACING		D	BLACK	RACING
B	BLUE	RACING				
C	YELLOW	RACING		X	PINK	CRUISING

6.2 Class flags must be flown on the backstay, or other conspicuous position in the stern of the boat and shall be displayed from the warning signal until the finish has been acknowledged.

6.3 Boats may fly the official Interclub Burgee during the Cruise on an appropriate staff or pennant halyard.

7. THE COURSES AND MARKS

7.1 The diagrams provided later define the courses and marks to be used. For races 1 and 3 the diagrams define the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each rounding mark is to be left. For races 2, 4 and 5 the order of marks to be rounded will be displayed at the stern of the committee boat and the mark rounding direction will be indicated by black letters on a white background indicating port rounding or white letters on a green background indicating starboard rounding.

7.2 The committee boat may set a mark (Orange Inflatable Mark 'O') to enhance a windward or downwind start. The committee boat will fly the International code flag 'O' (Oscar) over one of the numeral pennants 1 to 9. The numeral pennant will indicate the distance in nautical miles from the starting area to Mark 'O'. The committee boat will display the magnetic heading to this mark.

7.3 Approximate latitude and longitude waypoints have been listed to assist skipper to locate the various marks. It is the skipper's responsibility to locate all marks. Any error in listing the latitude and longitude waypoints cannot be used as grounds for redress.

8. THE START

8.1 All races will be started using RRS 26. The warning signal for each succeeding class will be concurrent with the starting signal of the preceding class.

8.2 The starting line will be between the R/C flag on the committee boat and the course side of the starting mark.

8.3 In the event of light winds the committee boat may fly the 'L' flag (follow me) with one sound and relocate the start to a different location than described in the course diagrams.

8.4 A boat not starting within 10 minutes of the last start will be scored 'DNC'. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

9. THE FINISH

9.1 The finishing line will be between the R/C flag on the committee boat and the course side of the finishing mark. The finishing mark is NOT a rounding mark and may be on either side of the committee boat.

9.2 The committee boat may not be present at the finish line. In this event, skippers should record their finish time and the name and finish time of the next yacht. Boats will report the finish times to the Race Committee within 30 minutes after docking. Finishing mark must be left close abeam (within 3 boat lengths), leaving the mark to port.

2025 LAKE ERIE INTERCLUB CRUISE

10. TIME LIMITS

- 10.1 The time limit to finish Race 1 will be 1900 hrs. (7 PM). If the first boat with a positive PHRF rating (higher than zero) does not finish by 1700 hrs. (5 PM) the race will be abandoned.
- 10.2 The time limit to finish Race 2 will be 1700 hrs. (5 PM)
- 10.3 The time limit to finish Race 3 will be 1900 hrs. (7 PM) for Course 1 (to Colborne) and 1700 hrs. (5 PM) for Course 2 (to Mohawk Island Buoy). If the first boat with a positive PHRF rating does not finish Course 1 by 1700 hrs. (5 PM) or Course 2 by 1530 hrs. (3:30 PM) the race will be abandoned.
- 10.4 The time limit to finish Race 4 will be 1700 hrs. (5 PM). If the first boat with a positive PHRF rating (higher than zero) does not finish by 1530 hrs. (3:30 PM) the race will be abandoned.
- 10.5 The time limit to finish Race 5 will be 1500 hrs. (3 PM)
- 10.6 Boats failing to finish within the time limit after any boat sails the course and finishes will be scored DID NOT FINISH. If one boat finishes within the time limit in the fleet, then all classes will be scored. (This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5).

11. HEARING REQUESTS

- 11.1 A protesting boat must report its protest to the race committee (preferably via VHF Race Channel 79) before leaving the racing area, preferably immediately after finishing the race by giving the name and/or sail number of the protesting yacht and the name and/or sail number of the boat being protested.
- 11.2 All protests shall be lodged with a race committee representative within 60 minutes after the committee boat docks. A Hearing Request Form will be included in the race packet. Protestors may also file their protest electronically using the US Sailing app. Electronic protests should be emailed to dhaller48@gmail.com.
- 11.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearing in which they are parties or named as witnesses. The time and location of hearings will be posted on the official notice board.
- 11.4 Protests entered on the final day of the regatta that do not involve prize winners may be heard after the awards presentation. This is necessary to avoid delay of the presentation.

12. CONDUCT

- 12.1 The Person-In-Charge shall be responsible for the conduct of the crew before, during, and after each race. In the event of serious misconduct (including fireworks, water balloons, and acts of rowdiness), destruction of property, or failure to comply with a request of the Race Committee, Cruise Chair, or instructions from the Dock Master or harbor master in any Cruise port, the Race Committee or Cruise Chair may request that the Protest Committee resolve the issue in accordance with RRS 69.
- 12.2 Failure for a yacht to comply with dockage assignments in any port as officially communicated by the Interclub Cruise Committee or its port representative may result in the yacht being told to retire from the cruise.

13. SCORING

- 13.1 The scoring system of RRS Appendix A will be used, except as modified below. Note that the PHRF Time on Distance method will be used to calculate finishing place.
- 13.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 13.3 A boat's series score will be the total of all of her race scores. This modifies RRS A2.
- 13.4 A boat that started and either retired or did not finish the race shall be scored two more points than the number of finishers in that race. This modifies RRS A5.2.

2025 LAKE ERIE INTERCLUB CRUISE

14. SAFETY

14.1 All boats must carry equipment required by the State and/or Country of registration at all times.

14.2 All boats shall meet the requirements of the Offshore Racing Council race category #4. The Race Committee strongly recommends (but does not require) that all personnel on deck wear personal flotation when starting without exception. After starting, each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.

14.3 The Race Committee reserves the right to inspect any boat for seaworthiness and/or safety concerns and take appropriate action as it deems fit.

14.4 All boats must check in with the race committee prior to their warning signal and report the total number of crew prior either via VHF Radio Channel 79 or via text to the R/C chair at 716-491-9558.

14.5 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee before leaving the course area via VHF Radio Channel 79. If notification by radio is not possible, the boat should text the R/C chair at 716-491-9558 at the earliest possible opportunity.

15. AWARDS

15.1 The Racing Division will have flags awarded for first, second and third place finishes for each race.

15.2 The Racing Division will have flags awarded for first, second and third place for the series.

15.3 The Interclub Trophy (Buffalo-Courier Express) will be awarded to the best overall boat in the Racing Division.

15.4 The Cruising Division boat with the lowest score of the combined results for the first two races will be awarded a special flag. There will be no awards for individual races.

16. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

16.1 Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors and other participants sailing in this event are participating entirely at their own risk (see RRS 3, Decision to Race). The race organizers (Organizing Authority, Race Committee, Protest Committee, Host Clubs, Sponsors, or any other Organization or Official) shall not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or personal injury to any competitor or other participant, including but not limited to personal injury or death, sustained as a result of participating in this event. By participating in this event, each entrant agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with such entrant's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chair Caroline Gross, BYC	Secretary Matt Wolford, EYC	Principal Race Officer Bill Lasher, EYC	Cruise Coordinator Heather McBrier (814) 602-2747
1st Vice-Chair James Ireland, SSC	Eligibility & Registrar Louis Johnson	Race Committee Chair Jim Kulwicki, BHSC/BYC	
Treasurer Jim McBrier, EYC	Protest David Haller, EYC	Photo Contest Tom Lewin, BYC	

TENTATIVE 2026 INTERCLUB CRUISE DATES

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. June 27 (Saturday) | Erie to Port Dover |
| 2. June 28 (Sunday) | Long Point Bay Course Race |
| 3. June 29 (Monday) | Port Dover to Port Colborne |
| 4. June 30 (Tuesday) | Port Colborne to Point Abino (BCC) |
| 5. July 1 (Wednesday) | Point Abino Course Race |

RACE 1

Erie to Port Dover

Saturday, June 28, 2025

Time	Class Flag Raised	Class Flag Lowered	Description
0525	Pink	-----	5 minute warning for Class X
0530	Black	Pink	Start Class X
0535	Yellow	Black	Start Class D
0540	Blue	Yellow	Start Class C
0545	White	Blue	Start Class B
0550	-----	White	Start Class A

Starting Area: Approx. 3/4 mile North East of Erie Yacht Club Lighthouse. Approx. N 42°08.33 W 80°07.15'.

If conditions warrant the start may be postponed and relocated to the lake in the vicinity of R2.

Course: Z – F. Approx. 41 nautical miles

Mark descriptions:

F – Finish mark – Green Inflatable. Located in the vicinity of Happy Face. Approx. N 42°45.32' W 80°12.47'

Z – Start mark – Green Inflatable

Rendezvous: Port Dover Yacht Club

Official Notice Board Location: Erie - Windows on EYC porch
Port Dover – PDYC bulletin board by pay phone

Time Limit: See SI 10.1

Erie Starting Area



Port Dover Finish Area



RACE 2

Long Point Bay Race

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Time	Class Flag Raised	Class Flag Lowered	Description
0955	Pink	-----	5 minute warning for Class X
1000	Black	Pink	Start Class X
1005	Yellow	Black	Start Class D
1010	Blue	Yellow	Start Class C
1015	White	Blue	Start Class B
1020	-----	White	Start Class A

Starting Area: Vicinity of Happy Face mooring. Approx. N 42°45.32' W 80°12.47'.

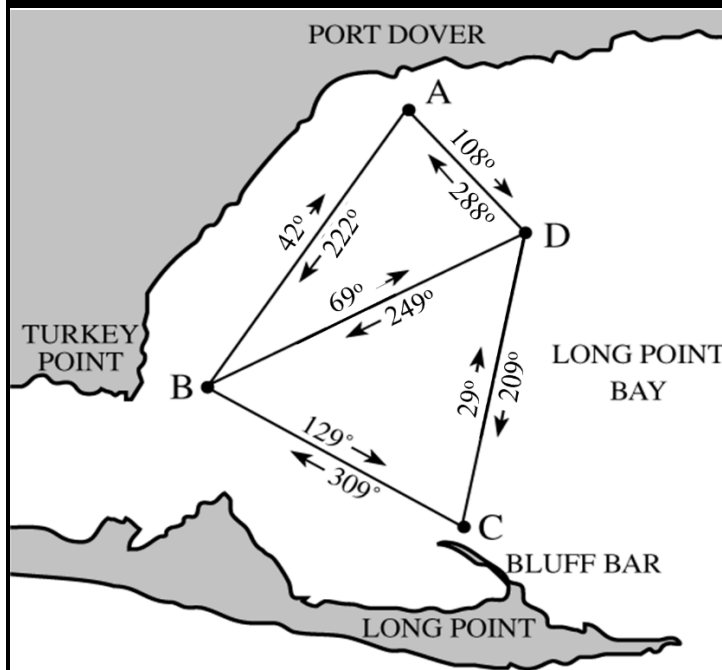
Course: See SI 7.1.

Rendezvous: Port Dover Yacht Club

Official Notice Board Location: PDYC bulletin board by pay phone

Time Limit: Time limit to finish will be 1700 hrs. (5 PM)

Mark Diagram



Mark Descriptions

A	Happy Face	N 42°45.32'
		W 80°12.47'
B	C Red/White Buoy	N 42°39.20'
	Turkey Point	W 80°17.69'
C	EA11 Green Buoy	N 42°35.80'
	Bluff Bar	W 80°09.59'
D	EN1 Green Buoy	N 42°44.62'
	Nanticoke	W 80°05.74'
F	Finish Mark, Green Inflatable	
O	Orange Inflatable – see SI 7.2	
Z	Start Mark, Green Inflatable	

Start and Finish marks will be in the vicinity of Mark A.
Mark A will NOT be a mark of the course.

RACE 3

Port Dover to Port Colborne

Monday, June 30, 2025

Time	Class Flag Raised	Class Flag Lowered	Description
0725	Pink	-----	5 minute warning for Class X
0730	Black	Pink	Start Class X
0735	Yellow	Black	Start Class D
0740	Blue	Yellow	Start Class C
0745	White	Blue	Start Class B
0750	-----	White	Start Class A

Starting Area: Vicinity of Happy Face mooring. Approx. N 42°45.32' W 80°12.47'.

Course: Course 1: Z – A – B – C – D – F. Leave all rounding marks to port. Approx. 41 nautical miles.

Course 2: Z – A – B – C. Leave all rounding marks to port. Approx. 31.5 nautical miles.

The course number will be displayed on the stern of the committee boat.

Mark descriptions:

A – Nanticoke Shoal Buoy. Approx. N 42°43.72' W 80°03.71'.

B – Tecumseh Buoy. Approx. N 42°47.69' W 79°43.46'.

C – Mohawk Island Buoy. Approx. N 42°48.80' W 79°31.00'.

D – Orange Inflatable 1 NM south of Morgan Point. Approx. N 42°50.25' W 79°20.71'.

F – Finish mark, Green Inflatable approx. 1.3 NM SW of channel entrance. Approx. N 42°51.22' W 79°16.90'.

Z – Start mark, Green Inflatable.

Rendezvous: Sugarloaf Harbor Marina

Official Notice Board Location: Port Dover - PDYC bulletin board by pay phone

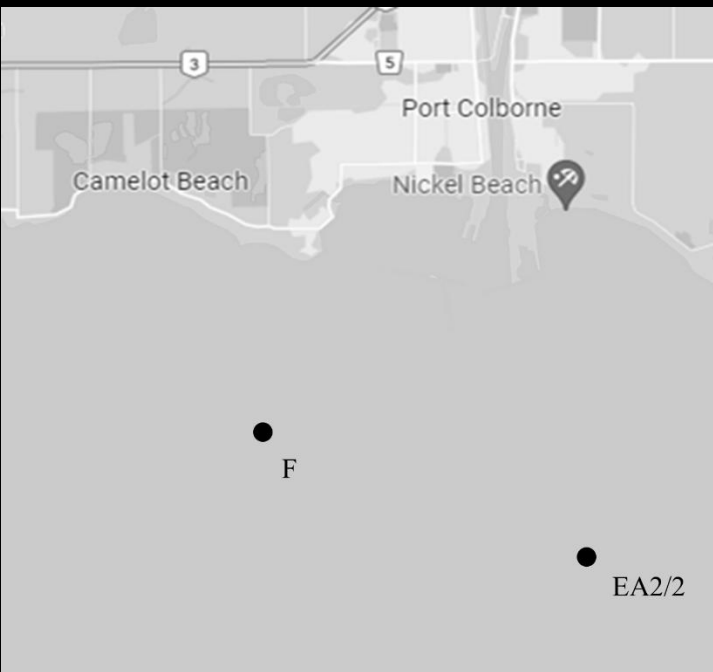
Port Colborne – bulletin board near showers at Sugarloaf Marina

Time Limit: See SI 10.3

Port Dover Starting Area



Port Colborne Finish Area



RACE 4

Port Colborne to Buffalo

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Time	Class Flag Raised	Class Flag Lowered	Description
0955	Pink	-----	5 minute warning for Class X
1000	Black	Pink	Start Class X
1005	Yellow	Black	Start Class D
1010	Blue	Yellow	Start Class C
1015	White	Blue	Start Class B
1020	-----	White	Start Class A

Starting Area: Approx. 1.3 NM SW of channel entrance. Approx. N 42°51.22' W 79°16.90'.

Course: See SI 7.1.

Mark descriptions:

A – Red Nun Buoy (R4). Approx. N 42°52.15' W 78°53.94'.

B – Port Colborne ODAS Buoy, Lighted Yellow Special Purpose Buoy. Approx. N 42°44.40' W 79°17.40'.

D – Red can off Point Abino. Approx. N 42°49.69' W 79°05.80'.

O – Orange Inflatable – see SI 7.2.

S – Seneca Shoal Buoy, Red Nun Buoy. Approx. N 42°47.66' W 78°55.87'.

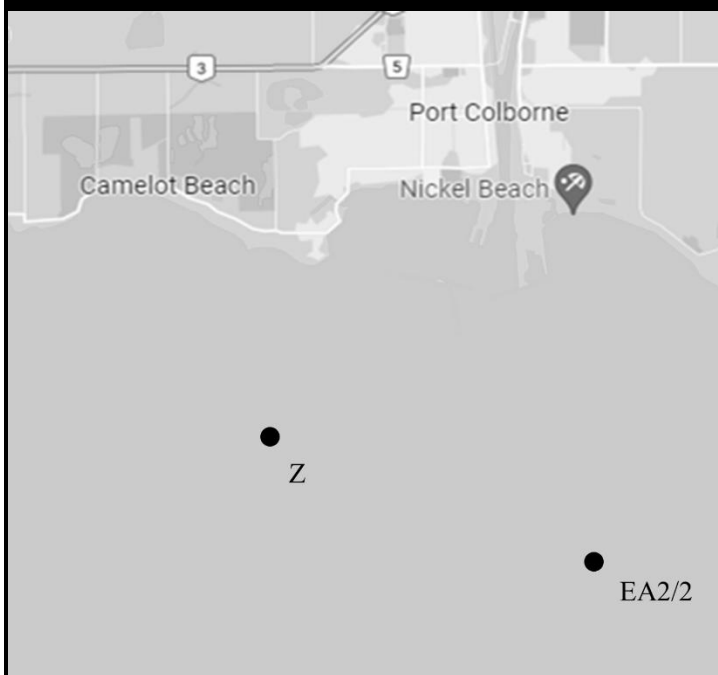
Z – Start mark, Green Inflatable.

Rendezvous: Buffalo Yacht Club

Official Notice Board Location: Port Colborne – bulletin board near showers at Sugarloaf Marina
Buffalo – Buffalo Yacht Club Porch Window

Time Limit: See SI 10.4

Port Colborne Starting Area



Buffalo Finish Area



RACE 5

Buffalo Course Race

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Time	Class Flag Raised	Class Flag Lowered	Description
0955	Pink	-----	5 minute warning for Class X
1000	Black	Pink	Start Class X
1005	Yellow	Black	Start Class D
1010	Blue	Yellow	Start Class C
1015	White	Blue	Start Class B
1020	-----	White	Start Class A

Starting Area: Near mark A or W. See below for approximate coordinates.
Committee boat will announce location on VHF Channel 79 once anchored.

Course: See SI 7.1

Mark descriptions:

- A – Red Nun Buoy (R4). Approx. N 42°52.15' W 78°53.94'.
- B – Club Mark – yellow post with yellow ball on top. Approx. N 42°51.90' W 78°55.92'.
- C – Club Mark – white post with white ball on top. Approx. N 42°49.88' W 78°55.30'.
- D – Club Mark – white post with white ball on top. Approx. N 42°50.72' W 78°52.80'.
- L – Club Mark – yellow post with 2 yellow balls on top. Approx. N 42°51.02' W 78°56.55'.
- N – Club Mark – white post with white ball on top. Approx. N 42°50.62' W 78°54.49'.
- O – see SI 7.2.
- S – Seneca Shoal Buoy, Red Nun Buoy. Approx. N 42°47.66' W 78°55.87'.
- W – Club Mark – white post with ball. Approx. N 42°51.42' W 78°53.90'.
- Z – Start mark, Green Inflatable.

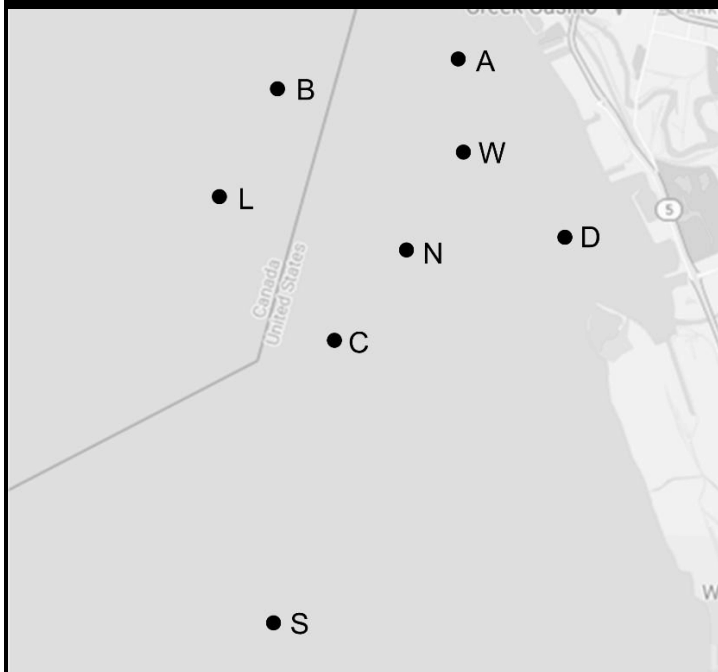
Rendezvous: Buffalo Yacht Club

Official Notice Board Location: Buffalo Yacht Club Porch Window

Time Limit: Time limit to finish will be 1500 hrs. (3 PM)

Approximate Buffalo Mark Locations

Approximate bearings between marks



Bearings are magnetic

	To	A	B	C	D	L	N	S	W
From									
A			271°	215°	161°	250°	206°	208°	188°
B	091°			178°	128°	219°	151°	190°	119°
C	035°	358°			076°	332°	050°	201°	045°
D	341°	308°	256°			287°	276°	227°	322°
L	070°	039°	152°	107°			115°	182°	089°
N	026°	331°	230°	096°	295°			210°	039°
S	028°	010°	021°	047°	002°	030°			032°
W	008°	299°	225°	142°	269°	219°	212°		